

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Battleship 57 (BB 57) was launched at Camden, N.J., June 7, 1941, and commissioned March 20, 1942; and

WHEREAS, she headed out on her first war cruise August 16, 1942, three years to the day before Japan was to surrender; and

WHEREAS, the wife of Governor Harlan Bushfield broke the traditional bottle of champagne across the bow of BB 57 and christened her the U.S.S. South Dakota, then whispered a prayer of Godspeed for the men who were to serve aboard her; and

WHEREAS, Battleship "X" was decommissioned January 31, 1947, placed in reserve at the Philadelphia Navy Yard and remained there until scrapping operations began in 1962; and

WHEREAS, in the hearts of South Dakotans and indeed in the hearts of all Americans whose freedom she helped to preserve, the U.S.S. South Dakota can never die; and

WHEREAS, she was the most highly decorated battlewagon in history and her place in history is secure, thanks to those gallant men who served aboard her, fought aboard her, and died aboard her; and

WHEREAS, a permanent memorial site has been designated at the southwest corner of 12th and Kiwanis in Sioux Falls, South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, the general outline of the memorial will be of the same dimension as the South Dakota itself and will be bordered by the original lifeline stanchions from the ship. A museum will be built within the grounds which will house many souvenirs of this gallant ship.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FRANK L. FARRAR, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim Sunday, September 7, 1969, as

"BATTLESHIP SOUTH DAKOTA DAY"

and urge all South Dakotans to pay tribute to and acknowledge the great battleship and everything for which it stands.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota to be affixed this 3rd day of September in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and sixty nine.

Frank L. Farrar
FRANK L. FARRAR, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Alma Larson
ALMA LARSON, SECRETARY OF STATE

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